

House Set to Fight For Wiretap Data

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The House wants American Telephone and Telegraph Co. to turn over its records on government wiretaps, and it is willing to finance a court fight with the White House over the issue.

By 180 to 143, the House Thursday agreed to finance a court test of President Ford's effort to block a congressional subpoena of AT&T records.

The decision means \$50,000 will go to provide outside counsel in the battle with Mr. Ford, who has asked a federal court to deny the records on grounds of national security.

The House Commerce Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, chaired by Rep. John Moss (D-Calif.), sought the records after AT&T officials said they made the taps, mainly of overseas cables, under authorization of the Attorney General, but without court approval.

In arguing for the President's position, Rep. Bill Frenzel (R-Minn.) said, "We're going to the mat with the chief executive over a fight that is totally needless because he has indicated his willingness to discuss the issue."